



MERCIA MARINA
http://www.merciamarina.co.uk/

Mercia Mercury

November 2013 Issue : 58

Mircropubs

≧ 21st Century Alehouses ≦

Cask & Pottle, 2 High Street, Tutbury

Mercia Moorers Gary Hopper and Jane Thompson have just opened the newest micropub in the country (and the first in Staffordshire) - converting a former sweetshop to create one of a growing number of these very small one-roomed pubs. The Cask & Pottle will be open every day except Mondays from 12 noon to 2pm (to 3pm on Sundays) and from 5pm till 9.30pm (a bit later on Fridays and Saturdays and no evening opening on Sundays). On offer will be 3 cask ales (4 at weekends) served straight from the barrel from the 80+ microbreweries already established in Staffordshire and Derbyshire, 2 ciders (usually including a perry), house wines, some soft drinks, tea and coffee and 'alehouse' food - locally-made pork pies, local cheeses, crisps and pork scratchings. The Ales and Ciders will change on a weekly basis - or more often if a barrel empties - and a blackboard will carry information about the particular ales, the alcohol % and tasting notes. And weekly themes will feature - one of the earliest being a Kent Week.

There will be NO spirits, NO lager, NO 'shots'; NO music, NO gaming machines, NO TV and NO mobiles (a charity box for fines for any phone spotted in use or ringing!) The main room has fixed wooden seating around three walls, with high tables and high stools so that the sitters and the standers can talk comfortably and there is a unisex accessible loo. The Cask & Pottle is also licensed for off sales, so bring a jug/container to take home 2 or 4 pints (a pottle!) of your favourite ale at each visit!

The micropubs' concept started in Kent when Martyn Hillier opened The Butcher's Arms in 2005 (www.micropub.co.uk). It



was to be a new and innovative model for the pub business - a small and back-to-basics "community pub" with great real ales and conversation at its heart. He supported others who wanted to follow his lead

and, of the 40 or so micropubs now opened in England, half are in his native



Kent. There are three micropubs in Derbyshire and three in Nottinghamshire (all opening within the last three years) and there is now a Micropub Association (www.micropubassociation.co.uk) to help the network of owners and real ale enthusiasts keep in touch. The momentum is building and with over 1,000 microbreweries across the country, there is scope for hundreds more micropubs over the coming years and a huge variety of commercial premises to be converted to this innovative use. Already converted are a butcher's shop, the waiting room at a railway station, a hairdressing salon, a pharmacy, dry cleaners, launderette, tattoo parlour, bookshop, petshop, fishermen's workshop, antique shop and sweetshop! The owners' work/career background is similarly eclectic and varied! With so many individually unique establishments now on offer, micropub touring is the new 'thing' - in Kent most usually all ending up at The Butcher's Arms to pay due homage to Martyn.

Kent was Gary and Jane's home and it was where they developed a passion for, and experience of, real ale.



Knowing Martyn and the evolution of micropubs from the early days, they took a major lifestyle change decision two years ago in deciding this was what they wanted to do too. With family in this area and a boat already at Mercia, they came to the boat full-time and set about finding premises, getting the necessary planning permissions, planning the conversion and opening their own micropub.

Tutbury village is an ideal spot and they are now welcoming their first customers. And true to micropub ethos, Gary and Jane have been advising and supporting two more Mercia couples planning their micropubs - one to be in Burton and one set for Castle Donnington.

Wet Weather and Hook-Ups

The current heavy rain is causing the power to trip on a lot of electricity bollards. The fault often lies not with the bollard but with the boat socket as water gets trapped in the blue plug which is usually installed upside down. It is good practice, especially in wet weather, to unplug and check and, if necessary, drain the water out of the plug.



New & Used Boat Co.

New Member of Staff Wanted

Pre-Delivery & Aftersales Administrator

Due to continued expansion, New & Used Boat Co now require a full-time Pre-Delivery & Aftersales Administrator to work from their Derbyshire office at Mercia Marina. Your role will be to liaise with our own warranty engineers, outside contractors, the sales team and our customers to ensure that when a customer collects their new boat and sails away, all runs smoothly. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate excellent organisational and interpersonal skills, be computer literate, have good time management skills, be able to work under pressure, and must excel in handling and solving problems. A practical person with a good 'common sense' understanding of engineering would be ideal. Working hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday - Salary £18-20k. Apply in writing with CV to Chris Hill, Managing Director by email: chris@newandusedboat.co.uk

A Good Spot by Harvey Lea!

Unannounced and unheralded, The Duchess of Sutherland clanked and puffed gently across the Willington viaduct 10 days ago. She was on her way back to Butterley, having been at the Severn Valley Railway Autumn Gala. She had one carriage (her support coach).



PAUL HOBSON

Wildlife Photographer



Paul studied environmental science at Sheffield and was a Lecturer in Environmental Sciences for 25 years. With more than twenty years' photography experience, he became a full-time wildlife photographer in 2009 and his photography is winning many international awards including:

- Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2008
- Glanvicher 2009 International Wildlife
- GDT European Photographer of the Year 2010
- Festival de l'Oiseau Nature 2012

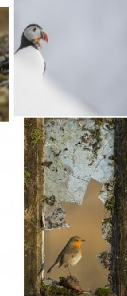
7.00 pm on Thursday, 7 November 2013

"Techniques for Successful Wildlife Photography"

An Illustrated Resume of Paul's last 12 months' work with the emphasis on the 'What, Why and How' behind his images.

The Willows Tea Rooms
Mercia Marina
Willington
DE65 6DW

- All Welcome
- Time for questions and discussion
- Free to attend
- Refreshments (Tea and Coffee)
- Limited space so book a place:
- Email or phone:
jules@merciamarina.co.uk
01283703332
or leave your name in the Office



Cruising with the Boss

Bruce and Sheila Napier (nb *Sanity Again*) agreed to give Richard Parry, Chief Executive of the Canal and River Trust, a half day's cruise on Saturday 5 October as part of his self-designed research into life on the water. Bruce reports as follows:

"Richard had texted me last evening to



check out arrival times; I replied that we could be ready anytime from nine onwards, so he chose to aim for 9.30.

"Richard was pretty well on time by boating standards and we were soon showing him through *Sanity Again*. Everyone who's met him has commented on what a nice guy he is, and we would certainly concur. By ten we were ready to pull out and set off for Branston or even further. The exit from the Marina went better than usual and for the next four hours we chugged steadily westwards.

"Richard was very willing to take his turn at the helm and showed great steering skill, especially as he's had comparatively limited experience of handling a long boat. We had lunch on the move after passing Dallow Lane Lock; Branston was soon on the horizon but on such a pleasant day it was easy to agree to go on a bit further to Barton Turn.

"It wouldn't be a day out on the cut without a chance to consume some beer so we adjourned to the Barton Turns Inn for the purpose. It being nice enough to sit out we occupied one of the lockside tables where we were very shortly joined by Elanor (Bruce and Sheila's daughter) and Sally (her dog), the latter in one of her scattier moods.

"After a bit Richard left us to walk on to a rendezvous further up the cut and Elanor and Sal came back to the boat for family goss.

"All in all a very pleasant day indeed; Richard comes across as getting to grips with the challenges of running CRT very well; he took great interest in the state of the cut, both in terms of offside vegetation growth and underwater problems. I look forward to watching his progress.



Marina Matters



- The tenancies for the Bar/Bistro and for a number of the shops are now signed and the funding in place, so all looks set fair for the promontory development. Construction work is due to start on the 18th of November and a Grand Opening planned for the end of the Summer.
- The annual Electricity Safety Tests are continuing. Boat owners should check their supply hasn't tripped. If you're not at the Marina, ask a neighbour to check.
- The creation of a new bin store at the entrance to the compound has started and will be completed shortly.
- Tarmac has been laid on some of the public areas at the front of the Marina. This will provide safer walkways - stones and gravel were constantly being washed away.
- The Salt Bins are prepared for any early ice. Please use as necessary on jetties, pontoons and pathways. The bins will be kept topped up through the winter.
- Boats and Lodges with solid fuel stoves should have their Chimneys checked and swept before the winter fires are lit.
- Check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. If you need to replace either or both, pop over to Midland Chandelers!
- Pontoons and Jetties will be power washed over the next weeks.

Derby 'ACAPPELLA' Chorus

The Chorus gave an amazing performance at the Marina's Festival weekend. They rehearse at Chester Green Community Centre on Tuesday evenings and are always looking for new recruits so if you're interested, get in touch with Tony (Rowan Lodge) by email

tonymargjay@btinternet.com



Insurance Schedules and BSCs

The Office needs copies of your current boat documentation as part of your mooring contract. Lucy will photocopy them for you if you take the originals to the Office as soon as the renewals come through.



Quiz Nights

Wednesday night saw the return of our Quiz Nights. Once again it was a full house and a good night was had by all, thank you all for coming along.

The next Quiz will be on Wednesday 20th November.



If you'd like to take part give Lucy (in the Office) your name as soon as possible. You can enter a team or, if you don't have a team, Lucy will join you up with others. It's a great way to have some fun and meet new people on the Marina.

Boaters' & Lodgers' Forum

The Forum met on the 29th of October. The meeting notes are available by email to all those who ask for them and a hard copy will be kept in the Office. A Headlines' sheet will also be distributed to encourage everyone to read what is being discussed and what decisions are taken by the Forum and the Reps on your behalf.

The next meeting will be in early January. Do talk to your Reps if you have anything to put on the Agenda or if you would like to attend as an observer, let the Office know.

DON'T MISS!

GUY FAWKES NIGHT

NOVEMBER 3RD

AT MERCIA MARINA

Guy Fawkes night at Mercia Marina. Enjoy the roaring bonfire and fantastic fireworks. Hot food from 3.30pm, fireworks from 5pm SUNDAY NOV 3RD. ****Hot foods, real ales and refreshments on sale****

PARKING IS EXTREMELY LIMITED - WALKING IS ADVISED

Findern Lane, Willington, DE65 6DW